

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 ACDE-00 DOEE-00 /026 W

-----042560 081433Z /72

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9317

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06973

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM US UK UR

SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: DEPUTIES' MEETING, MAY 5, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 194

1. SUMMARY. TIMERBAEV (USSR), EDMONDS (UK), AND NEIDLE (US) MET WITH ADVISERS AT US MISSION MAY 5 TO DEVELOP WORK SCHEDULE. OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING WERE: BELOV, COL. TARASOV, AND INTERPRETER (USSR), FAKLEY, BIRCH AND WETHERELL (UK); AND FINCH, GIVAN AND PHELPS (US).

SCHEDULE CALLS FOR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING MAY 8 TO RESUME WORK PRIMARILY ON INTERNAL SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS AND ALSO ON RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF ON-SITE INSPECTION TEAMS, AND FOR POLITICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING MAY 10 TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING ON-SITE INSPECTIONS. BOTH GROUPS ARE EXPECTED TO ASSIGN WORK TO SUB-GROUPS AS APPROPRIATE. IN DISCUSSING OTHER ISSUES, TIMERBAEV REPEATED EARLIER SOVIET ASSURANCES THAT TREATY DURATION AND PNE LINKAGE CAN BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY,

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BUT HE THOUGHT FOCUS NOW SHOULD BE ON KEY VERIFICATION ISSUES IN WORKING GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONSIDERING WORK SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKS, DEPUTIES AGREED THAT FOUR MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES WERE: INITIATION OF ON-SITE INSPECTIONS; INTERNAL SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS; RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF ON-SITE INSPECTION TEAMS; AND

DURATION OF THE TREATY AND PNE LINKAGE. TIMERBAEV NOTED THAT A MAJOR ISSUE NOT MENTIONED BY OTHER DELS WAS UK PARTICIPATION IN THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT SEVERAL LESSER ISSUES ALSO REQUIRED ATTENTION, THOUGH NOT ON A PRIORITY BASIS. THESE INCLUDED INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE, THE PROCEDURES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, AND THE "MAJOR PROHIBITIONS" OF THE TREATY. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT ISIS ARE THE "CRUX" OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ON UK PARTICIPATION IN THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, EDMONDS REPORTED THAT HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE A US-UK PROPOSAL SOON. NEIDLE, WITH EDMONDS' SUPPORT, COMMENTED THAT UK ASSOCIATION WAS NOT A "MAJOR" ISSUE OF THE SAME ORDER OF IMPORTANCE AS OTHER ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION, AND THAT THE US-UK PROPOSAL WOULD NOT REQUIRE ANY BASIC RESHAPING OF OUR WORK ON OTHER TREATY ISSUES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SUBJECT OF UK PARTICIPATION COULD BE HANDLED LARGEY AS A SUBSIDIARY POINT UNDER OTHER ISSUES. TIMERBAEV, WHILE APPEARING TO UNDERSTAND THIS APPROACH, DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE ACCEPTED IT. (COMMENT: TO THE EXTENT THIS CONVERSATION IS A STRAW IN THE WIND, IT MAY INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT INCLINED TO ACCOMMODATE READILY A SUBSTANTIAL UK ROLE AND THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE. END COMMENT.)

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4. THE DEPUTIES AGREED THAT DETAILED WORK ON VERIFICATION ISSUES SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY. TIMERBAEV RECOUNTED THAT AT THE LAST ROUND THE SOVIET DEL HAD CRITICIZED US ISI PROPOSALS AND HAD SUBMITTED ITS OWN DRAFT ON ISIS. HE ASKED WHETHER THE US WAS NOW PREPARED TO MAKE A NEW PROPOSAL BASED ON THE SOVIET DRAFT. NEIDLE REPLIED THAT MANY OF THE ELEMENTS OF OUR EARLIER PROPOSALS HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AND THEY STILL NEEDED TO BE. HOWEVER, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, WE HAD DEVELOPED SOME POSSIBLE NEW FORMULATIONS, AND WE HAD STREAMLINED AND PUT INTO A NEW FORMAT SOME OF OUR PROPOSALS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SOVIET POINTS. NEIDLE ALSO RECALLED THAT THE US DELEGATION HAD MADE VERY CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET DRAFT WAS INADEQUATE AND UNACCEPTABLE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT REFERRED VIRTUALLY ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES TO THE JCC. THE US POSITION REMAINS THAT ESSENTIAL DETAILS MUST BE AGREED IN ADVANCE. NEIDLE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD SAID THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISI ISSUES THIS ROUND WITH A VIEW TO AGREEING ON DETAILS: WAS THIS RECOLLECTION ACCURATE? TIMERBAEV'S RESPONSE WAS THAT NEIDLE HAD DISCUSSED THE ISSUES IN A "BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER": ISIS WERE UNDER NEGOTIATION, AND

THE SOVIETS "ARE READY TO CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE."

5. NEIDLE COMMENTED THAT WHILE VERIFICATION MIGHT RECEIVE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY, THERE WERE OTHER VITAL ISSUES ON WHICH THERE HAD TO BE PROGRESS AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO HAVE ANY TREATY AT ALL, ESPECIALLY THE ISSUES OF TREATY DURATION AND PNE LINKAGE. HE RECALLED THAT MOROKHOV HAD SAID THAT THESE ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY. HOW DID THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND PROCEEDING? TIMERBAEV REAFFIRMED THE SOVIET VIEW THAT

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 06973

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

THESE ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED. THE SOVIETS REMAIN READY TO WORK ON ALL FRONTS. THE ISSUES OF TREATY DURATION AND PNES COULD, OF COURSE, BE DEALT WITH AT VARIOUS LEVELS -- INCLUDING AT MEETINGS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS. BUT THE FOCUS NOW SHOULD BE ON KEY VERIFICATION ISSUES IN WORKING GROUPS AND SUB-GROUPS. JOHNSON

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